

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 172809
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 SS-15 IO-13
L-03 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 ACDA-07 NSC-05
DODE-00 /087 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA:NE:AAVACCARO:CA
APPROVED BY INR/RNA:DGNEWTON
SSM-CWKONTOS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
SSM

-----050917 240103Z /72

R 230257Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172809

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 364 - JULY 22, 1977

MOSCOW, KUWAIT, SANA FOR AMBASSADORS

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING.

1. EGYPT. THE EGYPTIANS SCORED A MAJOR VICTORY OVER
LIBYAN FORCES YESTERDAY IN FIGHTING--APPARENTLY
INITIATED BY THE LIBYANS--NEAR THE EGYPTIAN VILLAGE OF
MUSAID. THE FIGHTING APPARENTLY RESULTED WHEN EGYPTIAN
TROOPS ATTEMPTED TO RELIEVE A SIEGE OF THE BORDER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 172809

POST AT MUSAID.

2. THE EGYPTIANS CLEARLY FEEL THEY GAINED THE UPPER
HAND IN YESTERDAY'S ACTION, BUT MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT
POSSIBLE LIBYAN COUNTER STRIKES. THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
FORCES AVAILABLE IN THE BORDER AREA THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN
INVOLVED IN COMBAT--THE BRUNT OF WHICH HAS BEEN BORNE

BY BORDER UNITS AND AIRCRAFT. WE BELIEVE THAT EGYPTIAN MILITARY STRATEGY ON THE BORDER WILL BE INCREMENTAL. EGYPT WILL KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE LIBYAN ARMY WITH FURTHER LIMITED GROUND THRUSTS AND AIRSTRIKES TO

KEEP THE LIBYANS OFF BALANCE. THEY WILL ASSESS THE LIBYAN REACTION, HOPING FOR A MILITARY COLLAPSE, AND WILL BASE FURTHER MOVES ON HOW WELL THE LIBYANS STAND UP. THE LONG-RANGE EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS ARE LESS CLEAR, HOWEVER.

3. MEANWHILE, PLO CHIEF ARAFAT HAS BEGUN AN ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE. HE MET YESTERDAY WITH SADAT FOR AN HOUR, AND WAS LATER SCHEDULED TO FLY TO TRIPOLI. WE DOUBT THAT ARAFAT CAN ACTUALLY PERSUADE EITHER QADHAFI OR SADAT TO END THE FIGHTING, ALTHOUGH HIS EFFORTS COULD BE UTILIZED AS A RATIONALE SHOULD EITHER WISH TO CALM THE SITUATION. THE ARAB LEAGUE NOTED THE FIGHTING WITH REGRET, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IT MIGHT TAKE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. ARAB-ISRAEL. ARAB REACTION TO BEGIN'S PEACE PROPOSALS HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL AND DENUNCIATORY. THE ARAB PRESS GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED THE ISRAELI PLAN AS INDICATIVE OF ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE AND UNWILLINGNESS TO PURSUE PEACE SERIOUSLY. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 172809

SYRIA'S AL-BAATH, SAID THAT BEGIN, THROUGH HIS PROPOSALS, WAS MERELY STALLING FOR TIME, WHILE DECEPTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO SHOW FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ISRAEL'S PART.

5. ARAB OFFICIAL REACTION WAS SIMILARLY NEGATIVE. A SYRIAN OFFICIAL SAID THAT "BEGIN'S SO CALLED PEACE PLAN IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CONSECRATION OF THE OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES." A JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN CHARGED THAT BEGIN WAS ATTEMPTING TO EVADE A PEACE SETTLEMENT AND THAT HIS PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS DEMONSTRATED ISRAEL'S "INTRANSIGENCE AND INFLEXIBILITY," WHILE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY CALLED BEGIN'S SECOND CHOICE OF INDIRECT TALKS "AN ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO HINDER PEACE., THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS REMAINED SILENT, BUT THE SEMI-OFFICIAL SAUDI PRESS STATED THAT BEGIN'S PLAN SHOULD BE REJECTED.

6. IN CONTRAST TO THE GENERAL ARAB VIEW, EGYPT EVINCED A RESTRAINED ATTITUDE (DESPITE FAHMY'S REMARK NOTED ABOVE). EMBASSY CAIRO OBSERVED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESS, REFLECTING OFFICIAL GUIDANCE, WAS LOW-KEY IN ITS APPROACH. IN KEEPING WITH SADAT'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON

EGYPT'S REASONABLENESS AND DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD,
EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS MEANWHILE STRESSED THAT BEGIN'S PRO-
POSALS DID NOT IMPEDE THE PEACE PROCESS. OFFICIAL

SOURCES WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE MOMENTUM REMAINS"
AND THAT BEGIN'S US VISIT "PUT NO OBSTACLES IN THE WAY
OF HOLDING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE" IN OCTOBER. SADAT
IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE AN ADDRESS TODAY ON THE EVE OF THE
ANNIVERSARY OF EGYPT'S REVOLUTION, WHEN HE LIKELY WILL
MAKE AN OFFICIAL COMMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. ISRAEL. DMC LEADER YADIN REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT
THE ISSUE OF THE DMC'S JOINING THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE
DECIDED, ONE WAY OR OTHER, WITHIN A WEEK OF BEGIN'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 172809

RETURN FROM THE US, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TEL AVIV. IT
COMMENTED THAT THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT THE
DMC WILL OPT TO JOIN. THE TWO PARTIES HAVE APPOINTED
SUBCOMMITTEES TO DISCUSS THEIR DIFFERENCES IN
VARIOUS FIELDS AND HAVE WASTED LITTLE TIME IN GETTING
DOWN-TO BUSINESS. AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN
REACHED ON SEVERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES, THE
EMBASSY SAID. WE NOTE, AS A POSSIBLE INDICATION OF
PRESENT DMC INCLINATIONS ON JOINING THE COALITION, THAT THE
DMC SUPPORTED THE LIKUD IN THE KNESSET VOTE ON THE GOVERN-
MENT'S ECONOMIC AUSTERITY MEASURES.

8. MEANWHILE, HISTADRUT LEADERS WILL MEET WITH FINANCE
MINISTER EHRLICH ON SUNDAY TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT'S
ECONOMIC MEASURES. EHRLICH HAS HINTED, ACCORDING TO
EMBASSY TEL AVIV, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO
MAKE AS YET UNSPECIFIED CONCESSION TO WAGE EARNERS.
IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, THE HISTADRUT AND THE GOVERNMENT
ARE TREATING THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER THE AUSTERITY PRO-
GRAM WITH CARE AND ARE SEEKING TO AVOID A MAJOR CON-
FRONTATION. PUBLIC REACTION TO THE MEASURES HAS BEEN
REMARKABLY CALM, THE EMBASSY NOTED, A MOOD WHICH WE
BELIEVE COULD STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S HAND IN ITS
DEALING WITH THE HISTADRUT. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE172809
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NE:AAVACCARO:CA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770263-1281
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770726/aaaaavuk.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 76ccf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1767219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTSUM 364 - JULY 22, 1977 MOSCOW, KUWAIT, SANA FOR AMBASSADORS LONDON FOR KINSOLVING.
TAGS: PINR, EG, IS, XF
To: SINAI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76ccf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009